December 6, 2016

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
13th Council District
Councilmember Curren Price
9th Council District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: CF 13-1493 – Sidewalk Vending Policy

Dear Councilmembers,

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) commends your hard work on developing a comprehensive sidewalk vending policy proposal that takes into account the well-being of existing brick and mortar businesses. The proposed limit of two vendors per block is a welcome policy that prevents vendors from interfering with storefronts. Requiring the permission of an adjacent property owner or business is a key provision in this proposal that we applaud you for including. Ensuring vendors pay their fair share in taxes and contribute to the cost of Business Improvement Districts is a thoughtful approach in fostering a level playing field. VICA would like to offer insight on how the driving motives behind these components of the policy can be strengthened.

In order to properly limit the number of vendors per block, it is necessary to implement a cap on the number of permits issued. This will prevent permitted vendors from contesting multiple locations and ensure city staff is not overburdened with a disproportionate amount of permitted vendors to assist and regulate.

The proposed "special vending districts" are unclear. VICA remains concerned as to how these districts will impact businesses and neighborhoods. The policy should be clear that under no circumstance should the consent of an adjacent property owner or business be overruled by a special vending district. The ability to limit or eliminate vending in a district is not feasible if communities are required to have proven public safety or health concerns. If 20 percent of property owners or businesses in a district decide to reduce or eliminate vending, they should be allowed to do so without additional onerous requirements. Neighborhoods deserve the right to protect the quality and commerce of their sidewalks.

The city is in the process of handing the responsibility of sidewalk repairs to property owners and businesses. Since vendors will be the primary beneficiaries of sidewalks in the city, it is only fair they pay their fair share in funding sidewalk repairs.

It is important the city allocate additional staff to oversee the regulation and enforcement of sidewalk vending. Proper enforcement is needed to carry out the vision you have modeled for a comprehensive sidewalk vending policy. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tamaki
VICA Chairman

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

CC: Honorable Members of the City Council

TASK		Total	MICHAEL Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	LUIGI Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Alcohol [ABC] Ltrs	QTY										
Claims	QTY	104	28	30	27	19					
Claim Letters	QTY	111	37	30	27	19					
Contracts	QTY	143	14	20		3	4		11		4
Council Files Created	QTY	125					27	21	30		8
Counter Visits	QTY	446	45	53	35	22					
Environmental Docs	QTY	63	3	6	3	2	4	3	25		12
Journals	HRS	71									
NOVUS / CFMS	HRS	91									
Ordinances Posted	QTY	27					2		25		
Ordinances Published	QTY	9							5	1	
Ordinances Published-Amt Spent	$$$	$ 774.98							$ 324		
Publications for CCfs	QTY	50									
Publications for OtherDepts	QTY	103							5		
Refunds	QTY	252				17					
Reward Motions Pub-Amt Spent	$$$	$ 8,804.44									
Reward Motions	QTY										
Subpoenas	QTY								25		
Summons	QTY	85					383				
Phone Calls	City Services	1									
	Claims	503	52	58	58	35	9		10		6
	Complaints	5		3	2						
	Contracts	28							1		
	Council Related	20					4		1		
	County	1					2				
	LAAC/LAMC	1									
	Misc	48	5	3	7	1			3		
	Ordinance	1					1		3		
	Refunds	19	9	18	3		3				